

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 165363

73

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 EUR-12 ACDA-07 /095 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK/MW

APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

NEA:ADUBS

S/S:MR. BRIDGES

----- 130199

R 022203Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165363

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, US

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH DCMLA KHAN'S DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY
SECRETARY

1. SUMMARY: BANGLADESH DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (DCMLA) KHAN VISITED WASHINGTON PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE INTERNATIONAL NAVAL REVIEW IN NYC. IN DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY, KHAN ATTACKED INDIAN INTRANSIGENCE OVER FARAKKA BARRAGE DISPUTE AND COMPLAINED ABOUT CONTINUING BORDER INCURSIONS. HE ASKED IN A LOW-KEY MANNER FOR USG DIPLOMATIC HELP IN BRINGING INDIA AROUND TO AMICABLE SOLUTIONS AND IMPLIED A NEED FOR U. S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT. ROBINSON EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR BANGLADESH'S PROBLEMS IN BOTH AREAS. HE SAID WE WOULD STUDY BANGLADESH'S EQUIPMENT NEEDS CAREFULLY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT. DISCUSSION WITH AID ADMINI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 165363

STRATOR PARKER BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. DCMLA ADMIRAL M. H. KHAN HELD 30-MINUTE DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON JULY 1 WHICH CONTINUED WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS AFTER MR. ROBINSON WAS CALLED AWAY. KHAN SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA AS FAR AS BANGLADESH AND INDIA WERE CONCERNED. BANGLADESH UNDERSTANDS ITS GEOPOLITICAL POSITION AND WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH INDIA, BUT THE GOI DOES NOT SEEM TO WANT TO RECIPROCAL. KHAN EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT "FRIENDLY PERSUASION" APPLIED BY THE U. S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT HELP BRING ABOUT AN AMICABLE SOLUTION TO THE MAJOR PROBLEMS, NAMELY DIVISION OF THE GANGES WATER AND BORDER CLASHES.

3. REGARDING INDIA'S DIVERSION OF GANGES WATER AT FARAKKA, KHAN STATED THAT RIVER LEVELS IN BANGLADESH HAD DROPPED FROM A NORMAL 27-28 FEET TO 17-18 FEET FOLLOWING THE BEGINNING OF INDIAN WITHDRAWALS LAST YEAR. HE SAID SALINITY WHICH USUALLY STARTS AT KHULNA WAS BEING DETECTED 70-80 MILES FURTHER NORTH, AND THAT IF THE BARRAGE REMAINS IN FULL OPERATION NEXT YEAR THE SALINITY COULD BECOME PERMANENT. HE POINTED OUT ON A MAP A LARGE SECTION OF THE GANGES DELTA AFFECTED BY DROPPING WATER TABLES, LOSS OF RIVER TRANSPORT AND INCURSION OF SALINITY.

4. TURNING TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH INDIA, KHAN ARGUED FOR AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON A PERMANENT SOLUTION, AFTER WHICH THE DETAILS OF AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WOULD BE EASY TO WORK OUT. HE SAID BANGLADESH FAVORED A SOLUTION WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE GANGES BASIN, INCLUDING NEPAL. IN CONTRAST, KHAN SAID THE INDIANS PROPOSED TO TAKE WATER FROM THE BRAHMAPUTRA TO SUPPLEMENT THE GANGES FLOW ABOVE FARAKKA. KHAN SAID THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO BANGLADESH FOR TWO REASONS: (A) THE PROPOSED DAM ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA AS WELL AS THE LINK-UP WITH THE GANGES WOULD BE ON INDIAN TERRITORY AND THEREFORE UNDER EXCLUSIVE INDIAN CONTROL, (B) THE LINK CANAL WOULD RUN PRIMARILY THROUGH BANGLADESH TERRITORY DESTROYING A LARGE AREA OF BANGLADESH'S SCARCE ARABLE LAND. BANGLADESH BELIEVES SUCH A CANAL IS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE THERE IS ADEQUATE WATER IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 165363

THE GANGES BASIN IF IT WERE PROPERLY MANAGED AND FAIRLY DIVIDED.

5. ASKED BY ROBINSON IF BANGLADESH HAD GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO INVITING IN SOME SORT OF INTERNATIONAL REVIEW GROUP TO SUGGEST A SOLUTION, KHAN SAID THE BDG WOULD LIKE "ALL AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTS" TO DO WHAT WAS POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING PRESSURE ON INDIA BUT--AGAIN--

THAT "FRIENDLY PERSUASION" MIGHT HELP. KHAN SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND ONLY IF BANGLADESH AND INDIA COME TO AGREEMENT, BUT THAT WHILE TALKS ARE GOING ON TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

6. ROBINSON ASSURED KHAN THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO BANGLADESH'S PROBLEM. HE COMMENTED THAT WITH THE ADVENT OF THE MONSOON THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME TIME FOR THE PARTIES TO SEEK A SOLUTION. ROBINSON CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IT WAS A NEW PROBLEM TO HIM AND THAT IT WAS VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE THE ADMIRAL'S VIEWS.

7. ADMIRAL KHAN THEN TURNED TO THE PROBLEM OF BORDER INCURSIONS WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN OCCURRING SINCE JANUARY. KHAN SAID ONLY 500-600 PEOPLE SEEMED TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, BUT THAT THEY WERE BACKED UP BY TRIBAL PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, BY THE INDIAN BORDER SECURITY FORCES. KHAN SAID DISCUSSIONS AND JOINT INQUIRIES WITH THE INDIANS HAD PRODUCED NO RESULTS BECAUSE THE INDIANS REFUSE TO ADMIT THAT THERE IS ANY PROBLEM AT ALL. ASKED WHAT THE SOLUTION MIGHT BE, KHAN SAID IF THE BANGLADESHIS WERE STRONG ENOUGH THEY WOULD TAKE REPRISALS. KHAN SAID BANGLADESH WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO DEFEND ITSELF BECAUSE OF A LACK OF ARMS. HE COMPLAINED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE SOVIETS HAD STOPPED SUPPLYING SPARES FOR AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS. HE SAID BANGLADESH PARTICULARLY NEEDS MOBILITY FOR ITS FIGHTS WITH "NATURE" AS WELL AS OTHER ENEMIES.

8. ROBINSON REPLIED THAT WE WERE SYMPATHETIC TO BANGLADESH'S NEEDS. HE SAID THAT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR POLICY AS WE SEE THEM WE WOULD LIKE TO BE HELPFUL, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT. ROBINSON SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT BANGLADESH WAS PURCHASING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 165363

SOME EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER SOURCES AS WELL. HE ASSURED KHAN THAT WE WILL LOOK AT BANGLADESH'S REQUESTS CAREFULLY, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND DO WHAT IS APPROPRIATE, PROPER AND WITHIN THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY CONGRESS.
KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, WATER RIGHTS, WATER DIVERSION, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE165363
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAPECK/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760258-0965
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760793/aaaadedc.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH DCMLA KHAN'S DISCUSSION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, US, (KHAN, M H)
To: DACCA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006